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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/798,190

03/11/2004

James M. Hume

P-121896.0002.032

5304

7590

07/07/2006

EXAMINER

FLETCHER III, WILLIAM P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1762

DATE MAILED: 07/07/2006

Robert C. Curfiss
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San Antonio, TX 78205

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/798,190

Applicant(s)

HUME, JAMES M.

Examiner

William P. Fletcher III

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1762

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-32 and 37-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-32 and 37-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 04/21/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

2. A review of the specification reveals that applicant discloses three embodiments of the invention. The first, summarized at 4:12-22 and detailed at 6:12-8:11, discloses the application of multiple, individual liner layers, and does not disclose a single layer of foam that cures into more than one layer. The second, summarized at 5:1-9 and detailed at 8:13-9:19, again discloses the application of multiple, individual liner layers, and does not disclose a single layer of foam that cures into more than one layer. The third embodiment, summarized at 5:10-12 and detailed at 9:20-10:10, discloses a single foam layer that cures into more than one layer:

As the foam dries and cures, it forms an inner, hardened shell 42, an intermediate, structural and insulative core 44, and an outer bonding layer 46.

Thus, the only disclosure of a foam layer that cures into more than one layer is the foregoing in which a foam layer dries and cures into three layers and *only* three layers.

As noted in the prior Office action, the language “at least two” is inclusive of (i) only two layers, (ii) only three layers, and (iii) more than three layers. As noted above, (ii) is supported by the originally-filed specification, (i) and (iii) are not. Consequently, applicant's argument:

There is nothing in the application that teaches or suggests that the cured layer need only be three layers.

is not persuasive.

Applicant further argues:

Unless only three layers is a point of novelty of the invention — which it is not — then the applicant should not be unnecessarily limited to such claim language. The novelty of

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the invention is the formation of a liner having both a hard protective barrier layer and an insulative, closed-foam structural core layer that form from an applied foam upon curing.

As noted in the Office action mailed 09/21/2005 and the interview summary mailed 12/06/2005, the allowable subject matter is the formation of more than one layer from a single layer of applied foam, as part of the claimed process. As such, it is critical to establish the nature of the layers formed — including the number of layers — as it is supported by the specification. Applicant is reminded that new or amended claims which introduce elements or limitations which are not supported by the as-filed disclosure violate the written description requirement.¹ When establishing support, the fundamental factual inquiry is whether the specification conveys with reasonable clarity to those skilled in the art that, as of the filing date sought, applicant was in possession of the invention as now claimed.² It remains the examiner's position that the originally-filed disclosure fails to support a foam layer that cures into ~~and~~ more or less than three layers: an inner, hardened shell; and intermediate, structural and insulative core; and an outer, bonding layer.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 18-32 and 37-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the

¹ MPEP 2163(I)(B)

² *Ibid.*

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relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

These claims are rejected for the same reasons as set-forth under this heading in the prior Office action.

Conclusion

5. The prompt development of clear issues in the prosecution history requires that applicant's reply to this Office action be fully responsive (MPEP § 714.02). When filing an amendment, applicant should specifically point out the support for any amendment made to the disclosure, including new or amended claims (MPEP §§ 714.02 & 2163). A fully responsive reply to this Office action, if it includes new or amended claims, must therefore include an explicit citation (i.e., page number and line number) of that/those portion(s) of the original disclosure which applicant contends support(s) the new or amended limitation(s).

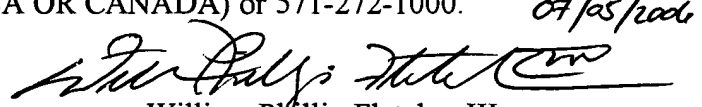
6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William P. Fletcher III whose telephone number is (571) 272-1419. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday through Saturday, 0700h to 1730h.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy H. Meeks can be reached on (571) 272-1423. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

07/05/2006


William Phillip Fletcher III
Patent Examiner (FSA), USPTO
Art Unit 1762

Alexandria, VA